

Teck

PROGRESS REPORT NO. 44

TO: Helen Bottcher – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) - via Email

FROM: Marko Adzic – Teck American Incorporated (Teck)

DATE: March 10, 2010

FILE NO: 1-773180-000

RE: Upper Columbia River (UCR) Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study
(RI/FS) - Progress Report No. 44 Month Ending February 2010

Pursuant to Paragraph 39 of the June 2, 2006 Settlement Agreement (Agreement), the following is intended to provide a summary of the activities completed during the past month in compliance with the aforementioned Agreement. It is also intended to provide a brief summary of pending and on-going activities.

Data validation of large-size fish (i.e., >30 centimeters) analyzed per U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) approval continues. Based on EPA's recommendations Teck is in the process of finalizing the compositing and homogenization scheme for large fish within focus areas where catch rates were less than those listed within the Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP). It is anticipated that this will be available for EPA's approval no later than mid-March. Per EPA's request and recommendation, fluoride for all fish tissue samples will be analyzed using the aqueous extraction method. With the exception of sucker species, analysis of medium-size fish continues. Analysis of medium-sized suckers and small fish is on hold until EPA has the opportunity to confirm that species were correctly identified in the field. It is our understanding that a fisheries biologist representing EPA will check the identity of the species in the laboratory. Teck hopes this work can be completed soon, as our goal is to initiate all of the tissue analysis work before the end of March.

Based on forecasted water levels, a minimal drawdown is anticipated to occur this spring thereby adversely affecting beach sediment exposure and associated sampling activities. Despite the less than optimal water elevations anticipated, there is the potential that a number of beaches could be sampled this spring. As a result, Teck in association with EPA will be conducting a non-intrusive reconnaissance of not-yet-sampled beaches identified within the approved QAPP in mid-March. Following the reconnaissance, Teck will recommend a list of beaches to be sampled in 2010. Once EPA has approved the list, dates for the sampling will be finalized.

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Weekly surface water sampling began on March 2nd and continues at Waneta (BC) as part of the second round of surface water sampling activities, with transect sampling at CAN1 scheduled to begin on the 6th of April. A detailed sampling schedule for all transects is being finalized, and we will be shared with EPA in the very near future so that oversight planning activities can proceed accordingly and in parallel.

Following the January technical meetings, additional technical discussions have been conducted with EPA, the broader Government Team, and Teck regarding: 1) pore water collection methodology; 2) sediment sieving; 3) sediment mussel toxicity; and 4) white sturgeon. Based on these follow-up technical discussions, there is sufficient information to move forward with the development of draft QAPPs that will address 2010 white sturgeon studies, and the sediment study. In addition, a methods development QAPP, which will help inform both of the above-mentioned definitive studies, has been submitted for EPA's review and approval. Teck continues to work hard with EPA to ensure that both the sediment and sturgeon programs proceed in 2010.

Should you have any questions or require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 509-892-2585.